assessed at Rs. 28,000/- by the civil administration, Bidar. The compensation is paid as per the extant guidelines.

MIG-21 Air Crashes

†3390. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI AJAY MAROO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of MIG-21 aircrafts crashed during the last three years and the number of people including pilots killed during the aforesaid period;

(b) the cost of a MIG-21 aircraft and the reasons found out by Government behind the spate of crashes of MIG-21 aircrafts and the steps taken by Government to prevent the recurrence of accidents; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A total number of twelve MIG-21 of the Indian Air Force (IAF) were lost during the last three financial years from 2003-2004 to 2005-2006. In these accidents a total number of 13 people (including seven pilots) lost their lives.

(b) and (c) The cost of a MIG-21 aircraft varies between Rs. 1.5 crores (for the oldest version) to Rs. 14.5 crores (for the latest version). The IAF carried out investigations in all MIG-21 accidents. Five of the twelve accidents occurred due to human error on the part of Aircrew, four were due to technical defects, two were due to human error on the part of servicing personnel at HAL and one was due to bird hit. The IAF has identified technical defect and human error as the two main causes for the accidents.

Each aircraft accident in the IAF is investigated through a Court of Inquiry (COI) and remedial actions as per the recommendations of the COI are taken. Besides, a continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) of concerned countries takes place to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Opening of Seabird Project Airport for Civilian Flights

3391. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has requested opening the airport at Seabird Project, Karwar, for civilian flights by extending the existing runway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Centre is asking the State Government to bear the cost on acquisition of the required 75 hectares of land, construction of the extended runway and its maintenance, etc;

(d) if so, considering that the land for Seabird Project was granted by Karnataka and that civilian service will promote tourism, agri-trade and exports, would the Centre bear the cost on land acquisition and runway extension to facilitate civilian operation; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) A Naval Air Station with 2,000 metres air strip is planned to be constructed during subsequent phases of the Project Seabird at Karwar. At present, there is no runway existing at the Project Seabird. The Government of Karnataka had requested the Ministry of Defence to extend the proposed runway from 2,000 metres to 3,000 metres for accommodating civil aircraft. The State Government was advised to consider acquisition of 75 hectares of additional land and transfer of the same to the Ministry of Defence free any cost/encumbrances for the proposed extension of the runway. The cost of construction and maintenance of extended runway and airfield will be additional. The Government of Karnataka has recently agreed to acquire 75 hectares of land for extending the runway of the Airport at Seabird Project, Uttar Kannada District and to transfer the same free of cost/encumbrances to